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FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

October 10, 2000

Ms. Jane Oliver
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20857

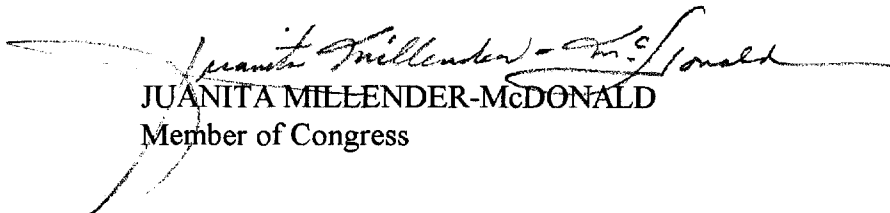
Dear Ms. Oliver:

I am writing to encourage the Food and Drug Administration to expedite the publication for public comment of the petition filed with the FDA on February 17, 2000 by the National Yogurt Association (NYA) to revise the federal standard of identity for yogurt.

NYA has proposed a revision which would enhance the current yogurt standard which is so vague it allows pudding and other products to be labeled as yogurt when they do not contain the health benefits of yogurt. Consumers must know what they are buying, particularly when the product is consumed to improve their health. This revision would clarify that yogurt is a food product containing a minimum level of specific live and active cultures. The proposed standard takes into account current industry practices and recognizes the need to allow for the use of future technologies. This proposed standard also establishes a clear, consistent, modern and flexible yogurt standard that will benefit consumers as well as the food production industry.

I would appreciate your informing me of the actions that have been taken to expedite the publication of NYA's petition to amend the standard of identity for yogurt. Thank you in advance your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
Member of Congress

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